WELCOME GUIDE
Tips, tricks and tools to make your on-campus experience a success

OHIO UNIVERSITY
Housing and Residence Life
On behalf of a talented and committed Housing and Residence Life team, I am excited to welcome you to Ohio University! This is a pivotal and exciting moment for you, and we are here to support you however we can. As a two-time alumna of Ohio University and mom to a Bobcat alum, I know what being a Bobcat means and how important your on-campus experience is. Our team of professional, graduate and student staff are here to help ensure that your memories of campus life are ones that you recall fondly.

Athens offers not just natural beauty and a true neighborhood feel, but also a vibrant arts community, recreation, heritage and history. It truly is a wonderful place to receive a world-class education, and we are thrilled that you’re here to be a part of it.

WELCOME TO CAMPUS, BOBCATS!

In Bobcat Pride,
JNEANNE HACKER
Executive Director of Housing and Residence Life

Welcome to OHIO. Bobcat! This guide will help prepare you for your first move-in experience as well as give you tips, tricks and tools to ensure you have a successful year. While this guide is packed with great information, remember that our staff are always just a phone call, text message or email away. Don’t hesitate to reach out to ensure you and your family are supported as you start your first year at OHIO.

We are excited to help make OHIO home for you!

Call or text 740.593.4090
Email housing@ohio.edu
Visit Living Learning Center 215
OHIO_Housing
ohio_housing
OHIO Housing & Residence Life

This guide will detail the information you need for move-in. To supplement the guide, and for a web version of move-in information, visit: ohio.edu/arrival-guide

The Arrival Guide website also has a link to our can’t-miss Welcome Week activities!
ITEMS TO BRING:
- Alarm clock
- Backpack
- Bedspread, pillow and mattress pad
- Blankets and sheets (for 80” twin XL bed)
- Clothes hangers
- Comfortable walking shoes
- COVID supplies, including face masks, thermometer, etc.
- Desk lamp
- Dust rag and spray
- First-aid kit
- Laundry supplies (high-efficiency detergent)
- Non-wall-damaging adhesive for posters or decorations (we recommend 3M/Command products for all halls outside of Tanaka, Luchs, Carr and Sowle. Those halls have small nails available at the staff office for students.)
- Notebooks, pens, pencils, tape, stapler, paper clips, scissors
- Rain jacket/umbrella
- Rolls of quarters (if not using Bobcat Cash) for laundry.
- Shower bucket (to carry your shower supplies)
- Shower shoes/flip-flops
- Towels and washcloths
- UL-approved GFCI surge bars or power strips

ITEMS NOT TO BRING:
- Alcohol (if you are under the legal age of 21)
- Candles
- Cooking appliances, including, but not limited to, air fryers, crock pots, grills, toasters, hot plates, any open-coil cooking appliances and toaster ovens
- Drugs (illegal)
- Duct/masking tape or other wall/furniture-damaging tape product
- Explosives
- Fishnet or paper lanterns
- Personal microwave or refrigerator (a refrigerator and microwave unit are provided)
- Personal air-conditioning units (all rooms have air-conditioning)
- Pets (other than fish in up to a 10-gallon tank)
- Posters that will cover more than 25 percent of your walls
- Weapons

For a more detailed list, review the Student Housing Handbook.  
(https://www.ohio.edu/housing/student-handbook)

Renter’s Insurance

Housing and Residence Life encourages each of our residents to maintain renters insurance so that the student’s personal items are protected. Ohio University is not responsible for any damage, theft or loss that may occur within a resident’s room.
**MOVE-IN DAY**

We’ll tell you where to go, when to show up and how to get there — while keeping stress to a bare minimum.

Your Housing Self-Service page (ohio.edu/myhousing) will reflect your move-in date and time as well as a color that designates your move-in area. On move-in day, staff will use your color-coded car placard to direct you to your unloading zone. We will mail your car placard to your home address during the first week of August.

**MOVE-IN TIMES**

Move-in times are created to allow roommates to move in together as well as manage traffic on and off campus. All move-in dates and times are available on the online Arrival Guide (ohio.edu/arrival-guide) as well as on your Housing Self-Service page (ohio.edu/myhousing).

To help ensure a successful move-in and reduce traffic on campus, please plan to stick to your scheduled date and time!

**CHECK-IN OFFICE LOCATIONS**

East and West Green residence halls report to the staff office of the building to which they are assigned, except for 4 University Terrace residents, who will check in at Bryan Hall.

**TRAFFIC DISCLAIMERS**

Construction projects across campus and city/campus roadways may impede normal traffic flow or walking patterns, and could create challenges in certain areas for those driving large vehicles. Please be cautious! We appreciate your understanding as we continue to build and renovate our campus. Once you arrive in Athens, please turn off your GPS.

- For students residing in Front Four halls (Crawford, Mackinnon, Pickering and Brown Halls) or East Green, please take the exit for Stimson Avenue. Continue to follow signs based on assigned green and/or hall. If you are headed south to Athens on Route 33, the exit is on your left-hand side.
- For students residing on West Green or in South Green buildings (except Mackinnon, Crawford, Pickering and Brown), please take the exit for Richland Avenue. Continue to follow signs based on assigned green and/or hall.
- Read signs and Ohio University staff in reflective vests will be located on each of the greens to help you navigate campus.

**SURVEY**

It is important to us to know how your experience was. After arriving on campus, please complete this short survey so we can extend your gratitude to staff, use your feedback to highlight what made your move-in experience successful, and learn what we can do better to continue to improve the move-in experience.

**BUCKING AND RAISING BED REQUESTS**

In double and multi-occupancy spaces (triples and quads) the beds will most likely be pre-bunked on your arrival. We are not able to receive any requests prior to move-in week. All requests can be made once you have checked in. If you need assistance in unbunking your bed or raising it up or down, there will be a list at the hall’s staff office for those requests on move-in day. Facilities staff will make rounds throughout the move-in day to process those requests.

If a student needs help bunking, unbunking, raising or lowering their bed after move-in, a work order can be placed for Facilities staff to respond to.

**Mackinnon Hall**

- For students residing in Mackinnon Hall, check in at the Mackinnon Hall Wray Staff Office (1st Floor).

**Check-In Office Locations**

**EAST AND WEST GREEN RESIDENCE HALLS:**

- Adams Hall: Adams Hall 1st Floor
- Brown Hall: Brown Hall 1st Floor
- Carr and Sowle: Carr Hall 1st Floor
- Crawford Hall: Crawford Hall 1st Floor
- Mackinnon Hall: Mackinnon Hall 1st Floor
- Pickering Hall: Pickering Hall 1st Floor
- Tanaka and Luchs: Tanaka Hall 1st Floor
- Wray, Ewing, Dougan, True and Hoover: Wray Staff Office (1st Floor)

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1. Leave your home
2. Use recommended routes to travel to campus
3. Hang your move-in placard on your rearview mirror when you arrive on campus
4. Check in while your family unloads the car
5. Move the car to long-term parking
6. Take pictures to capture and remember the experience
MAKING OHIO HOME

Housing and Residence Life is more than just halls on a campus. Our department has over 300 staff members that are here to support you. We are dedicated to creating environments that support your academics, but also provide you experiences and spaces that allow you to thrive. Below are some key resources and initiatives to help support your future success!

Bobcat Living Experience

Through the Bobcat Living Experience, students living on campus can expect:

- Staff who care about their experience and their success as a Bobcat. Demonstrated through Bobcat to Bobcats (staff connections with each of their residents) and Community Meetings, our staff set aside time throughout the semester to get to know their students and offer support and resources for success.

- Opportunities to get involved and get to know others in their community. Whether it be through Hall Council programs or RA-hosted Community Builders, students will be provided countless experiences to live, learn, play and grow in their residence hall.

- Support when times get tough. We know that living with over 100 of your fellow Bobcats can be a new challenge! We use Living Agreements and staff-facilitated mediation to help students resolve any disputes and adjust to sharing a space with others.

- A strong commitment to inclusion. Our greatest strengths come from being a part of a larger Bobcat community. We empower our students to be involved in creating an environment where students can contribute differing perspectives, ideas and experiences to drive change and encourages a sense of belonging through programs, meaningful conversations and purposeful opportunities.

The Bobcat Living Experience is an intentional effort for our staff to provide support, resources and fun for our residential Bobcats. Our team is trained, ready and excited to welcome you all to campus this August.

Housing Job Opportunities

- Office Assistant (OA): Assists students with lockouts, key exchanges and questions at the LLC Welcome Desk.
- Resident Advisor (RA): Serves as a mentor and guide to their residents while also cultivating an inclusive community.
- Housing Ambassador (HA): Shares the on-campus living experience with incoming and prospective students and their families.
- Community Ambassador (CA): Coordinates on-campus living programs and commuter engagement initiatives.
- Student Services Ambassador (SSA): Addresses questions and concerns from students, families and campus partners at the main Housing office.

Leadership Opportunities

- Residence Hall Association (RHA): RHA is a dynamic student organization on campus that unites the Hall Councils from across campus. Even if you are not interested in Hall Council, be sure to join RHA so you can advocate for the needs of all residents on campus (https://www.ohiorha.org).
- Hall Council (HC): Hall Council is a collection of students who come together in each of their halls/complexes to create community, plan events and advocate for their residence halls. One Hall Council member from each building is encouraged to attend meetings of RHA to communicate with other Hall Councils and advocate for their hall.
- National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH): NRHH is composed of student leaders who engage in personal and professional development opportunities to grow their skills around recognition, service and leadership. Members are equipped with the knowledge needed to serve their communities with compassion, intentionality and inclusion (https://www.ohio.edu/housing/nrhh).
Housing Self-Service
Housing Self-Service (ohio.edu/myhousing) is an online portal used for all your housing and dining services. There, you can:

- Complete applications, contracts and forms.
- Update your personal information.
- View your room selection date and time.
- Match with roommates.
- Select your room.
- Change your meal plan.
- Change your room.

LLC Welcome Desk
At the LLC Welcome Desk, on the first floor of the Living Learning Center (LLC), you’ll find assistants who can help with loaner keys and lockouts. The LLC Welcome Desk is typically open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

East End at Jefferson Hall
The East End, at Jefferson Hall on the East Green, is a multipurpose space open to all OHIO students. It houses study rooms and spaces, moveable white boards for projects, gaming space (pool, Xbox, etc.) and a desk staffed by Housing Ambassadors who can answer questions and help you check out yard games (cornhole, Jenga, etc.).

Agreements, Conflicts and Solutions

ROOMMATE AND SUITEMATE AGREEMENTS
Whether living with a roommate is a new experience or something you have done before, you will find that sharing a room with another person or persons requires open and honest communication, cooperation, compromise, flexibility and respect. To assist in your transition to living on campus and sharing a space with others, OHIO Housing and Residence Life requires all residents to complete Living Agreements with their roommates and/or suitemates within the first few days of arriving on campus. These agreements outline mutual expectations regarding guests, sleeping and study schedules, room cleanliness and communication. We encourage you to reflect on the talking points below to prepare you for completion of the agreement.

- Past experiences with roommates
- Feelings about living with someone
- Behaviors or attitudes toward conflict
- Academic major and career aspirations
- Personal and family values
- Personality and personal time – introvert and extrovert, hobbies, interests
- Lifestyle choices – such as those involving food, exercise, sleep and hygiene

ROOMMATE CONFLICTS
Housing and Residence Life works to empower our residents to address conflicts with their roommate(s) as they arise. Conflicts and disagreements are inevitable when sharing a living space. Learning to address conflict positively can be a great experience for everyone involved and we have resources in place to help if and when they arise. All Residence Life staff are equipped to assist residents experiencing conflict or disagreement with their roommates and/or suitemates.

STEP 1: Residence Life Staff Are Notified of Conflict or Disagreement
Residents may reach out directly to their RA or Graduate Resident Director/Resident Director with their concerns.

STEP 2: Staff Clarifies Needs and Concerns
Staff will work to explore the situation with all involved residents. Separate discussions are held with each resident to identify and address concerns.

STEP 3: Staff Facilitates Discussion Between Residents
Staff will facilitate a discussion among involved parties to explore concerns and determine possible outcomes.

STEP 4: Resolution
Solutions are considered and agreed upon in a newly completed roommate agreement OR a room change is processed, based on spaces available at the time.

ROOM CHANGE PROCESS
If residents are unable to reach a compromise, a room change may be needed.

STEP 1: Visit ohio.edu/myhousing
Select the “Room Selection” tab, then “Request a Room Change.” Fill out as much information as possible and click “Submit.”

STEP 2: A Staff Member Will Reach Out
A staff member will contact you within two business days of your submission. Relocation to new spaces is based on availability and the nature of residents’ needs.
Dining

All fall semester dining plans will be active as of lunch on the Thursday of move-in week.

Groups and guests are always welcome at any of Culinary Services’ dining venues. Guests pay for their meals as they enter the dining venue. All dining locations accept credit cards (Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover) or Bobcat Cash. You can find on-campus dining locations, menus, hours and more at: ohio.edu/food or contact 740.593.2970 or dining@ohio.edu with questions.

**FOOD AVAILABLE:**
- Asian fusion
- Barbecue
- Breakfast
- Deli
- Dessert
- Grill
- Home style
- Mediterranean
- Mexican
- Pizza and pasta
- Salad bar
- Soup and vegetarian

**BOBCAT CASH**
Bobcat Cash is money put on deposit with the University (similar to a prepaid debit card) that can be used at the Dining Courts, campus markets, vending machines, laundry centers and various on-campus food service, retail and public printing operations. Simply add money to this account and then use your Ohio University-issued ID card to access it. Additional deposits can be added as needed throughout the academic year. Bobcat Cash cannot currently be used off-campus. For more information about Bobcat Cash, visit: ohio.edu/bobcat-cash

**MEAL PLANS**
Meal plans available to incoming first years are the Traditional 14, Traditional 20, Flex 14 and the Flex 20. For more information on meal plans, visit: ohio.edu/food/residential-meal-plans

**Changing Meal Plans:**
Dining plans can be increased or decreased until the Wednesday prior to the traditional move-in for fall semester. During the academic year (fall and spring), students can only upgrade their dining plan.

**Step by step:**
1. Log in to your Housing Self-Service page.
2. Click on “Dining” on the left side of the screen.
3. Click on “Dining Plans” on the left side of the screen.
4. Select the term, and then click the “Change My Meal Plan” button.
5. Select the meal plan you would like, then click “Purchase Meal Plan.”

**VENDORS**

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<tr>
<th>Flex Points</th>
<th>Bobcat Cash</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>VENDORS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>DINING COURTS</td>
<td>The District on West Green, Nelson Commons</td>
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<tr>
<td>MARKETS</td>
<td>Jefferson Marketplace, Nelson Market, Boyd Market</td>
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<tr>
<td>FOOD COURT</td>
<td>West 82 Food Court</td>
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<td>RESTAURANT</td>
<td>Latitude 39 Casual Dining</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAFÉS</td>
<td>Café Bibliotech, Front Room Coffeehouse, OU-HCOM SAF Café, South Side Espresso Bar, Steeped &amp; Stirred, The Ohio Café, Smooth Moves and Brick City Deli</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAMPUS LAUNDRY</td>
<td>All green laundry rooms and centers</td>
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Our staff has thoroughly inspected and prepped your space before your arrival, but throughout the course of the year you may need our Facilities team to address an issue. Here’s how to deal with several of them, from bedbugs to clogged sinks.

**Facilities**

**MOLD**
Ohio University’s response to mold and mildew is performed by the department of Facilities Management and Safety. Housing and Residence Life provides the following information to reduce the potential for mold and mildew in the residence halls:

**How to Reduce the Likelihood of Mold Growth**
- Report any water problems immediately by contacting Facilities Management and Safety.
- Set the air conditioning thermostat between 68 and 72 degrees.
- Run the fan on auto to reduce the amount of condensation on or around windows and to maintain proper airflow.
- Do not open windows during cooling or heating season.
- Keep room air vents (where applicable) in all areas open and unobstructed to maintain proper airflow.
- Do not hang towels (or any other wet items) to dry between the mattress and bed frame. This can cause mold to grow on the bed and/or mattress.
- Good housekeeping practices (vacuum floors, wipe down counters, clean up spills quickly, wash out refrigerators, wipe down doors, etc.) should be shared by all roommates to help reduce the likelihood of mold growth.

For more information about mold and mildew visit: ohio.edu/housing/mold

**BED BUGS**
Ohio University uses certified pest-control employees to combat the growing challenge of bedbugs facing the United States and the world. Our experts address bedbug issues quickly and effectively. It is important that students understand reporting measures in the event they encounter bedbugs.

- Contact the building’s Resident Director or Graduate Resident Director as soon as possible.
- If a student sees what they suspect is a bedbug, they should tape the suspected bedbug to a piece of paper or take a picture to show the responding pest-control staff for verification.
- Once pest-control staff is notified, they will examine the student’s room for signs of bedbugs. Staff will contact the student to provide more information concerning any findings.
- Student rooms with confirmed signs of bedbugs will be temporarily vacated to allow staff to begin the extermination process.
- Affected students will be temporarily placed in another room.

For more information about bedbugs, visit: ohio.edu/health-alerts/bedbugs

Students may report suspected bedbug concerns by calling Facilities Management and Safety at 740.593.2911.

**Laundry**

**LAUNDRY CENTERS**
Large facilities designed to accommodate many students at one time. These facilities accept Bobcat Cash and quarters.

**SPEED QUEEN LAUNDRY TRACKING APP**
This monitoring system lets students check the status of washers and dryers.

Learn more and download at: www.ohio.edu/housing/speed-queen

- Download the app.
- Create a user account.
- Use location PIN: OHIO01.
- Locate your hall.

For more information about the laundry centers and rooms, visit www.ohio.edu/housing/laundry

**Mail**

Students in the residence halls can retrieve letters and packages from their designated green mail center.

When a student’s package arrives at a mail center, the package will be logged and an email message will be sent to the student’s OHIO email account notifying them that a package is ready to be picked up.

Emails from vendors such as Amazon and UPS stating that your package has been delivered do not mean that the package is ready for pickup!

To pick up a package, you will need to bring your OHIO ID to your designated green mail center during operating hours.

Packages will not be received by the U.S. Postal Service until the Monday prior to the semester opening.

If a student sees what they suspect is a bedbug, they should tape the suspected bedbug to a piece of paper or take a picture to show the responding pest-control staff for verification.

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For more information about mold and mildew visit: ohio.edu/housing/mold

If you suspect mold or mildew in your room, contact Facilities Management and Safety at 740.593.2911.

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**Laundry centers and rooms**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GREENS</th>
<th>LAUNDRY CENTERS</th>
<th>LAUNDRY ROOMS</th>
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<tr>
<td>EAST GREEN</td>
<td>Gamertsfelder</td>
<td>4 University Terrace, Biddle, Bryan, Jefferson, Lincoln, Shively and Voigt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEST GREEN</td>
<td>Treadley</td>
<td>Bromley, James and Convocation Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH GREEN</td>
<td>Dougan</td>
<td>Adams, Brown, Carr, Crawford, Ewing, Hoover, Luchs, Mackinnon, Pickering, Sowle, Tanaka, True and Wray</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Sender's Name**

**Street Address**

**City, State, ZIP Code**

**Recipient's Name**

**Hall Name and Room Number**

**Hall Street Address**

**Athens, OH 45701**

For more information about mold and mildew visit: ohio.edu/housing/mold

If you suspect mold or mildew in your room, contact Facilities Management and Safety at 740.593.2911.

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Facilities information continues on the next page
Your safety at Ohio University is a priority for Housing and Residence Life. Here’s an overview.

Campus Safety

EMERGENCIES
Ohio University has its own police department and fully certified law enforcement officers. In an emergency, students should dial 911. In nonemergency situations, we encourage everyone to program OUPD’s dispatch number (740.593.1911) into their phones. For students signed up for the Ohio University text messaging system, emergency alerts will be sent via text to the student. Emergency information will also be shared at: www.ohio.edu/alert

ID CARD ACCESS
Your OHIO ID serves as a key card for your residence hall. (Students only have access to their own residence hall.) Outside doors, interior wing doors and elevators with public access are locked 24 hours a day as an additional safety measure.

• Lost/Stolen OHIO ID
  If your OHIO ID is lost or stolen, deactivate it immediately. Log into Ohio University eAccounts, select “Card Services” from the main menu and select “Deactivate Card.” Failure to report or deactivate a lost or stolen card may result in liability for any fraudulent transactions using the lost card.

SECURITY CAMERAS
Security cameras are in operation in public areas, including lobbies, building entrances and exits.

FIRE DRILLS AND EVACUATIONS
Fire drills are conducted regularly in the halls to ensure the operation of our systems and the preparedness of our in-hall staff and students. Evacuation information is posted throughout the residence halls and on each floor for reference in the case of an emergency or drill.

CRIME ALERTS
If criminal activity occurs on or around campus, the Ohio University Police Department may issue a crime alert that is sent to all students’ official university email address with details concerning the event and other relevant information to help keep students safe.

BUT WAIT, THERE’S MORE!
This guide will help you prepare for your arrival, navigate move-in day and adjust to life on campus. For information about hall closing, spring semester opening and any other break periods, visit ohio.edu/housing/transitions throughout the year for the latest updates.